AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please **CANCEL** claims 1-16, 22-34 and 36-38 as follows. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation applications.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating area information in a common framework implemented on hardware, comprising the steps of:

providing to the hardware a first set of instructions which generates an area of interest (AOI) defined by a first geometric shape;

defining with the hardware the first geometric shape by one or more coordinates; and

converting with the hardware the one or more coordinates to a second set of coordinates for use with a second set of instructions different than the first set of instructions,

wherein the second set of coordinates is defined by a new AOI which includes information associated with the first set of instructions and which is interpreted by the second set of instructions,

wherein the new AOI associated with second set of instructions define a second geometric shape,

wherein the step of defining the first geometric shape includes the steps of determining whether the first geometric shape includes one of:

(i) at least three points;

(ii) a distinct starting point, fast end point and a slow end point;

(iii) a non-zero distance between a starting point and a fast end point; and

(iv) a non zero area, and

wherein after the determination of the first geometric shape, the method includes the steps of providing:

(i) the at least three points used to define a polygon;

(ii) the distinct starting point, fast end point and a slow end point used to define a parallelogram;

(iii) the non-zero distance between the starting point and the fast end point used to define a rectangle; and

(iv) the non zero area used to define a bounding box.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein after the determination that there are the at least three points, the method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether there are any crossovers; if there are no crossover then copying polygon information to the AOI; and

setting a current AOI to the polygon.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein after the determination that there are the distinct starting point, fast end point and slow end point, the method further comprises the steps of:

converting parallelogram information to a temporary polygon;

copying the temporary polygon to an AOI initial polygon;

setting an AOI initial style to "parallelogram";

copying from the temporary polygon to an AOI current polygon; and

setting an AOI current style to the "parallelogram".

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein after the determination that there is the non-zero distance, the method further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the slow length is greater than 0;

if the slow length is greater than 0, converting a rectangle to a temporary polygon;

copying the temporary polygon to an AOI initial polygon;

setting an AOI initial style to "rectangle";

copying the temporary polygon to an AOI current polygon; and

setting the rectangle in an AOI current style to the "rectangle".

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein after the determination that there is the non-zero area, the method comprising:

converting bounding box information to a temporary polygon;

copying the temporary polygon to an AOI initial polygon;

setting an AOI initial style to "bounding box";

copying the temporary polygon to an AOI current polygon; and

setting an AOI current style to the "bounding box".

Claims 22-34 (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the method is utilized in a mail sorting system.

Claims 36-38 (Canceled).